

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MANUAL 10-507
NOVEMBER 20, 2003***

***Operations and Services
Public Weather Services, NWSPD 10-5***

PUBLIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSM 10-507, Public Zone Boundaries, UGCs, and Maps, dated October 2, 2002; Weather Service Operations Manual (WSOM) Chapter C-47, County Warning Areas, dated September 8, 1993, Issuance 93-13; Appendix A to WSOM Chapter C-47, County Warning Areas (CWA), dated September 2, 1998, Issuance 98-4; and Operations Manual Letter 04-99, filed with C-47, “Modification for AWIPS Commissioning to Designated WSOM Chapters,” dated 9/9/99.

<u>signed</u>	<u>11/06/03</u>
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Public Geographic Areas of Responsibility

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1. Introduction. This manual provides World Wide Web (WWW) links to public zone maps, public listing files, County Warning and Forecast Area (CWFA) maps, and CWFA listing files. Individual state, territorial, and commonwealth zone maps are presented alphabetically. In addition, the Interactive Zone Map link provides public zone maps in GIS format with the capability to zoom, request attribute information, and select any geographic center point for printing.

The maps and listings at the WWW links are best viewed in Netscape 7.0 or higher or Internet Explorer.

1.1 Public Zones. Public zone listing files are arranged alphabetically within each of the six National Weather Service (NWS) regions (Alaska, Central, Eastern, Pacific, Southern, and Western) and provide zone-related information (i.e., associated state, zone code, zone name, county name/area designation, Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) code, and Weather Forecast Office (WFO) name and identification).

1.2 County Warning and Forecast Areas. CWFA maps are arranged both alphabetically by state and alphabetically by state within each of the NWS regions. CWFA listing files are arranged alphabetically by WFO. The listings consist of WFO identification; WFO name; FIPS code; county, parish, or independent city name; and corresponding state.

2. Public Zone and County Warning and Forecast Area Definition/Designation. When defining/designating public zone and CWFA boundaries, full consideration is given to which WFO is most capable of providing warnings and forecasts for the area populace.

2.1 Public Zones. Generally, a zone shape is influenced by topography, political boundaries, climate, population, land use, transportation routes, frequency of hazardous weather, etc.

2.2 County Warning and Forecast Areas. CWFAs are designated by counties/parishes (or parts thereof) and independent cities surrounding a WFO, without regard to state boundaries.

Note: The links listed in the following sections are best viewed using Netscape 7.0 or higher or Internet Explorer.

3. [National Weather Service Regions Map](#).

4. [Public Zone Forecast Maps by State \(.PDF\)](#).

5. [Public Zone Listings by Region \(Including FIPS/County Information\)](#).

5.1 [Alaska Region](#).

- 5.2 [Central Region.](#)
- 5.3 [Eastern Region.](#)
- 5.4 [Pacific Region.](#)
- 5.5 [Southern Region.](#)
- 5.6 [Western Region.](#)
- 6. [County Warning and Forecast Area Maps by Region and State.](#)
- 6.1 [Maps by Region.](#)
- 6.2 [Maps by State.](#)
- 7. [County Warning and Forecast Area Listings By Weather Forecast Office.](#)
- 8. [Interactive Public Zone Forecast Maps.](#)
- 9. [Geographic Areas of Responsibility for Other Programs \(Hydrology, Marine\).](#)
Information on geographic areas of responsibility for other National Weather Service programs can be found in the following directives:
 - a. Hydrologic Services: [NWSI 10-903](#), Geographic Areas of Responsibility;
 - b. Marine Services: [NWSI 10-302](#), Marine and Coastal Weather Services Areas of Responsibility.